

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9574

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JA, KS, US, SOPN

SUBJECT: FURTHER JAPANESE REACTION TO KIM HYUNG WOOK TESTIMONY

REF: TOKYO 9401

1. KIM TAE JUNG AFFAIR, RESURRECTED BY TESTIMONY OF FORMER KCIA CHIEF KIM HYUNG WOOK BEFORE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE, HAS CONTINUED TO RECEIVE PROMINENT PLAY IN NATIONAL MEDIA. PREDICTABLY, OPPOSITION PARTIES--WITH NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF DSP--HAVE USED TESTIMONY TO CALL FOR RE-OPENING OF OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF 1973 KIDNAPPING, URGE FUKUDA TO DEMAND KIM TAE JUNG'S FREEDOM, AND CONDEMN LDP'S "CORRUPT TIES" WITH ROK. FOR ITS PART, GOJ HAS ATTEMPTED TO CAST DOUBT ON KIM HYUNG WOOK'S CREDIBILITY; NATIONAL POLICE HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT CHECK OF IMMIGRATION RECORDS HAS PROVEN THAT FORMER KCIA CHIEF COULD NOT HAVE MET WITH ROK DIPLOMAT KIM JAE KWON IN JAPAN TO LEARN DETAILS OF ABDUCTION AS HE HAD TESTIFIED.

2. GOJ EFFORTS TO DOWNPLAY ISSUE, HOWEVER, APPEARED TO BE UNDERCUT BY CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S STATEMENT TO PRESS THAT KCIA KIDNAPPING HAD BEEN "SERIOUS INSULT TO JAPANESE SOVEREIGNTY" AND THAT KIM HYUNG WOOK'S
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TESTIMONY HAD BEEN SUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE FROM OTHER SOURCES. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA REACTED TO FRASER STATEMENT BY SUGGESTING THAT GOJ MIGHT "PROTEST" CONGRESSMAN'S STATEMENT. IN MORE MEASURED RESPONSE, PM FUKUDA CAUTIONED AGAINST ATTRIBUTING TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO HEARSAY TESTIMONY AND NOTED THAT KIM TAE JUNG INCIDENT WAS OFFICIALLY "CLOSED"

UNTIL MORE DEFINITE EVIDENCE BECAME AVAILABLE TO GOJ, I.E., UNTIL UNLIKELY POSSIBILITY THAT FORMER ROK DIPLOMAT KIM JAE KWON COULD BE INTERROGATED BY JAPANESE AUTHORITIES. PM FUKUDA NOTED THAT HE HAD THOUGHT PRIMARY PURPOSE OF FRASER HEARINGS HAD BEEN TO PROBE KOREAN LOBBYING IN US AND NOT TO INVESTIGATE ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS.

3. COMMENT: WITH EXAMPLE OF LOCKHEED AFFAIR IN MIND, LDP LEADERSHIP IS FEARFUL THAT US CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS WILL PROVIDE OPPOSITION WITH EFFECTIVE POLITICAL WEAPON ON EVE OF JULY 10 UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. LEVEL OF LDP'S ANXIETY IS REFLECTED IN UNUSUAL ASPERITY WITH WHICH SONODA REACTED TO FRASER'S COMMENTS. OPPOSITION PARTIES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ATTEMPT TO KEEP ISSUE ON FRONT PAGES. CGP HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL SEND POST-ELECTION MISSION TO WASHINGTON TO COLLECT "EVIDENCE;" FONOFF HAS INFORMED US THAT JCP IS PREPARING SIMILAR MISSION AND THAT LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MAY HAVE SPECIAL SESSION ON KIM TAE JUNG AFFAIR ON JULY 13 AND 14. BARRING FURTHER REVELATIONS OUT OF WASHINGTON, HOWEVER, IT IS LIKELY PRESENT LEVEL OF PUBLIC ATTENTION WILL SUBSIDE.
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Message Attributes

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